



RCMP O DIVISION CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM

Border Integrity Open Source Results for 2022-02-13, 2000 hours

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AIM

To provide RCMP O Division with passive open source information identified on 2022-02-13 by 2000 hours, pertaining to the ongoing protests known as the "Freedom Convoy" at or near Ontario land and air ports of entry (POE).

KEY FINDINGS

- QEW in Fort Erie remains closed this evening although a small number of demonstrations continue at Central Ave & Garrison Rd.
- There is a lengthy delay at the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge for commercial vehicles seeking alternatives routes to cross the border.
- Following a round of arrests in Windsor this afternoon the majority of remaining protesters appear to have dispersed with some protestors vowing to return in the coming days.
- News reports suggest that Windsor Police hope to open the Ambassador Bridge in the near future.
- An unidentified male suggests OPP should stay in the Windsor area for tomorrow.
- The Windsor protest continues to appear more spontaneous and loosely organized than Ottawa, lacking the same leadership, logistics and resources.
- A photo posted to Twitter shows the RCMP's Emergency Response Team (ERT) vehicle parked at a hotel in Windsor; it is possible the vehicle could be targeted by protestors.
- There continues to be protests on the US-side of the Blue Water Bridge, however, MTO traffic cameras indicate that traffic is still moving across the bridge.

NIAGARA REGION

Peace Bridge

The QEW at Gilmore Road continues to be closed by OPP to prevent protestors from gathering. Few protestors remain at the Peace Bridge location this evening. Small demonstrations at Central Ave & Garrison Rd persist, but the roads appear to have been cleared. Police are screening vehicles and are turning people away.ⁱ

Rainbow Bridge

No posts of concern regarding this location.

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Whirlpool Bridge

No posts of concern regarding this location.

Queenston-Lewiston Bridge

There are significant delays at the Queenston-Lewiston POE as traffic is rerouted from the Peace Bridge. Traffic is flowing into Canada unimpeded, but the wait is approximately 1hr40min for trucks entering the US.ⁱⁱ

CORNWALL

No posts of concern regarding this location.

WINDSOR

Following a round of arrests this afternoon, the majority of protesters appear to have dispersed. Public posts on social media platforms also decreased in frequency as the protest dwindled. Various posters suggested waiting to return to the same area, targeting a different area, or consolidate with protestors in Ottawa (Figure 1). News reports suggest that Windsor Police hope to open the bridge in the near future.ⁱⁱⁱ



Figure 1: Posts in the Windsor Slowdown to support the Ottawa Convoy^{iv}

Personal Info.

On a live stream hosted by **Personal** in Windsor, an unknown individual approached the camera stating the province of Ontario is in for a “pleasant surprise tomorrow” and all that matters is that the OPP stays in Windsor until tomorrow (Figure 2).^{vii} Shortly after stating this the individual walks away. During the stream **Person** and other protestors were told to move their car out of the Canadian Tire parking lot to another location or they would be towed. ^{viii} **Person** towing appears to be the company selected to assist

in towing away vehicles and have received a lot of negative social media attention from users who appear to be in support of the protests.^{ix}



Figure 2 Photo of unidentified male^x

One Twitter user, **Personal Info.** posted a photo depicting an individual holding a sign saying "GAS the UNVACCINATED" with a swastika (Figure 3).^{xi} The post suggest the user was a counter protestor. To date, there has been no known eruption of violence between protestors and counter-protestors.



Figure 3 Tweet regarding a possible counter-protestor^{xii}

A photo posted to Twitter showing the RCMP's Emergency Response Team (ERT) vehicle parked at a hotel in Windsor (Figure 4, following page). The specific hotel is not mentioned in the post. If protestors observe this photo, it is possible protestors could approach or damage the vehicle.



Figure 4 Post to Twitter an image of RCMP's ERT TAV^{xiii}

No information was identified about concrete plans for new rounds of protest. The Windsor protest continues to appear more spontaneous and loosely organized than Ottawa, lacking the same leadership, logistics and resources. No subjects of interest (SOIs) or dominant protest leaders were identified during the reporting period.

SARNIA

There continue to be protests on the US-side of the Blue Water Bridge. Several unverified posts also suggested that US-side of the border was blocked at the site of the bridge. However, MTO traffic cameras indicate that despite heavy volume, traffic is still moving across the bridge.^{xiv}

SAULT STE. MARIE

No posts of concern regarding this location.

KINGSTON

No posts of concern regarding this location.

OTTAWA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – YOW

No posts of concern were observed in relation to the Ottawa International Airport.

TORONTO PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – YYZ

No posts of concern were observed in relation to the Toronto Pearson International Airport (TPIA)

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATION

With the fluidity and ever evolving situations at or near the POEs, continued live query support of open source media is warranted in order to provide updated situational awareness for RCMP O Division and partner agencies.

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at least one popular Facebook group, "WINDSOR SLOWDOWN to support the Ottawa Convoy", discussed making the group private.^{xv} This may impact further efforts to research open source for this report.

As a result of the RCMP vehicle being posted on social media at a hotel in Windsor, this could be an officer safety concern and potentially identify where O Division members are staying.

LIIMITATIONS

Although effort has been made to review all publicly visible social media and web sources for information relevant to this brief, the absence of threat information herein should not be taken as an exhaustive examination of potential threats. A large volume of information is available online and constantly evolving.

DISSEMINATION

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Personal Info.

ⁱⁱⁱ [U] Taylor Campbell et al., "Arrests number 25 to 30 as police work to reopen Ambassador Bridge," *The Windsor Star*, <https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/police-begin-second-push-to-clear-protesters-at-ambassador-bridge/>, accessed 2022-02-13.

^{iv} [U] Facebook posts in group "Windsor Slowdown to support the Ottawa Convoy," www.facebook.com/256949072340529, accessed 2022-02-13.

Personal Info.

^{vi} [U] Vice.com, www.vice.com/en/article/dy858m/as-police-make-arrests-some-anti-maskers-are-trying-to-cash-in. Accessed on 2022-02-13

^{vii} [U] Youtube.com, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9N02HP6KFE>. Accessed on 2022-02-13

^{viii} [U] Youtube.com, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9N02HP6KFE>. Accessed on 2022-02-13

Personal Info.

^x [U] Youtube.com, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9N02HP6KFE>. Accessed on 2022-02-13

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^{xiv} [U] Federal Bridge Corporation, MTO Traffic Cameras, <https://bluewaterbridge.ca/tolls-and-traffic/>, accessed 2022-02-13.

^{xv} [U] Facebook posts in group "Windsor Slowdown to support the Ottawa Convoy," www.facebook.com/256949072340529, accessed 2022-02-13.